

taluks and that they are only periodically cultivable. The tracts had to be cleared of jungle, labour was not easily obtainable in the localities, water-supply was scarce and the crops had to be protected from wild animals. Unless a large area of land was available, systematic cultivation would be impossible. But this was rendered difficult by large tracts fit for such cultivation being included within reserves or granted to European planters. The upset price would amount to a large sum and unless some concession was given to the ryots by putting a light assessment on the lands, people would not willingly come forward to take up Cherikal cultivation and even the lands now under cultivation stood the chance of being summarily abandoned. The member requested that due consideration might be paid to the above difficulties in the settlement of Cherikal lands.

Mr. K. G. Raghava Menon (Changanachery) also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—Government have under consideration the question of laying down some special rules for the settlement of Cherikals. The suggestions now made will be considered in that connection.

8. Heavy assessment fixed on the ground and trees in Shertallay.

Mr. Narasimha Kammathi of Shertallay (Nominated) represented that both land and trees in Shertallay were heavily assessed by the settlement officers and requested a reduction in the rates.

Reply.—Fair rates appear to have been fixed.

9. Increase in the present assessment on Kettuthengu.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (Shertallay) said that tax on cocoanut-oil was not a source of garden revenue throughout the State, but was levied only in Shertallay and Vaikam. The necessity for the abolition of this tax was pressed on the attention of Government at the last session of the Assembly. There were special difficulties attending the cultivation of cocoanut trees in sandy tracts like Shertallay. In *Mr. Ramiengar's Settlement Memorandum* it is stated that 3 per cent. of the trees alone is set apart as those on which the Sovereign's due is to be levied in the shape of oil, but the practice now followed by the Settlement Department was to set apart 25 per cent. or one for every 4 trees. As this was a hardship, the member prayed that, in case Government were not prepared to abolish the tax